PLANT FACT SHEET

Astrohibiscus caesius (Garcke) McLay & R.L.Barrett

GENUS *Astrohibiscus* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Buds, Fruit

The young buds are eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A small herb which grows each year from seed. It has a few erect stems. It grows 0.5-1.5 m high and spreads 0.5-1 m wide. The stems are smooth. The leaves are 3-7 cm long by 3-5 cm wide. They are divided into 5-7 sword shaped lobes. These are 2.5-7 cm long. They are dark green. There are teeth along the edge. The flowers are 6-8 cm across and yellow with a red blotch in the centre. The flowers occur singly in the axils of the upper leaves. The fruit is a capsule 2-2.5 cm long by 2 cm wide. It is round and hairy. The seeds are smooth.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in northern Australia. It grows on heavy soils along stream banks. It needs an open sunny position and well drained soil. It suits the seasonally dry tropics.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow rapidly in the wet season.

NOTES

There are about 220 Hibiscus species.

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